

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-69 (canceled).

70. (Original) A modified atmosphere package comprising first and second compartments separated by a partition member, the partition member including a non-barrier portion substantially permeable to oxygen, the first and second compartments being encompassed by an outer wall substantially impermeable to oxygen, the second compartment being configured and sized to fully enclose a retail cut of raw meat, and the first compartment containing a mixture of gases, the gas mixture comprising from about 0.1 to about 0.8 vol.% carbon monoxide and at least one other gas to form a low oxygen environment so as to form carboxymyoglobin on a surface of the meat.

71. (Original) The package of claim 70 further including an oxygen scavenger.

72. (Original) The package of claim 70, wherein the second compartment package includes a tray.

73. (Original) The package of claim 72, wherein the tray is comprised of polystyrene foam.

74. (Original) The package of claim 70, wherein the gas mixture comprises from about 0.3 vol.% to about 0.5 vol.% carbon monoxide.

75. (Original) The package of claim 70, wherein the gas mixture comprises from about 0.1 vol.% to about 0.5 vol.% carbon monoxide.

76-86. Cancelled

87. (New) A modified atmosphere package comprising first and second compartments separated by a partition member, the partition member including a non-barrier portion substantially permeable to oxygen, the first and second compartments being encompassed by an outer wall substantially impermeable to oxygen, the second compartment being configured

and sized to fully enclose a retail cut of raw meat, and the first compartment containing a mixture of gases, the gas mixture comprising from about 0.1 to about 0.8 vol.% carbon monoxide and at least one other gas to form a low oxygen environment so as to substantially convert the oxymyoglobin directly to carboxymyoglobin on a surface of the meat.

88. (New) The package of claim 87 further including an oxygen scavenger.
89. (New) The package of claim 87, wherein the second compartment package includes a tray.
90. (New) The package of claim 89, wherein the tray is comprised of polystyrene foam.
91. (New) The package of claim 87, wherein the gas mixture comprises from about 0.3 vol.% to about 0.5 vol.% carbon monoxide.
92. (New) The package of claim 87, wherein the gas mixture comprises from about 0.1 vol.% to about 0.5 vol.% carbon monoxide.